11-8-68

Dear Gary (copy, ultimately, to Paul),

Enclosed is the entire edited WDSU Oswald footage. It includes what they have left of the court scenes after the arrest, the lit distribution, and the "debate", with sound. It is 16 mm. It must be handled in the strictest confidence, for in the literal sense, I want to keep my word to Ed Planer, news director of the station, who loaned me their film and gave me permission to dub it but not to give Garrison or anyone else copies. I can use it only for purposes of identification. I am sending it to you in the hope Patsy can devote his talents to it promptly. I phoned you earlier tonight, but you were in Austin speaking. I may not be able to phone when you are available tomorrow, which is my present plan. So, I must also ask that after you and Patsy examine it, you send me, registered, everything, negatives and all. This is essential, for I will keep my word. More, if we find anything of news interest in this film, I will call it to Planer's attention. When you consider his and the station's attitude toward Garrison (it is NBC), I think his letting me have this is little short of remarkable, as is something I will come to soon.

This film is without the outtakes (as is that of WWL, which I have twice seen). I suspect what was edited out is what would interest us most, for news and evidentiary interests rarely coincide and at the time of the occurrences, they were relatively unimportant.

Aside from witnesses who might give us information, we should be looking for that escort. You will, of course, know. I think it may be too much work for Patsy to do every frame (he did not on Martin, which shows none of the literature on the ground). However, among the things I think should, if possible, be included, are the various faces that seem to be of interest. You have pictures of Hernandez and Cruz in Martin (l to r as you view), which should identify them. All of Bringuier is out of Martin, but he is in here. Different angles of Oswald may become important. Those at the courtm may be significant.

Planer and I had a discussion of a number of things yesterday, when I got the footage. As I left he told me no one had ever asked him for the film, or to see it, which is one of the more arcane ways of conducting a searching investigation. The same is true of WWL, which would not give me the film but showed it to me yesterday and today permitted me to bring Moo to see it. This was one of the costlier operations, for I spent three hours awaiting the eminence, time I'd liked to have spent in other pursuits. I told him bluntly the only impediment to my work here came from that office.

It seems to me, from the internal evidence, that the WWL footage was taken earlier than that of WDSU. We have learned that the WDSU photographer, Johann Rush, now in California, also had 17 stills. They may have been from the 16 mm.

If you have troubles reading this, more than with my usual very bad tryping, I can explain only that while I am deeply grateful for the use of Matt's strange typewriter, as I am for his many and unstinting, endless kindnesses, it is in something less than first-class condition. I gave Moss the address and phone of Rush's parents, in Shreveport. He then phoned them and they are trying to reach him in Calif. to arrange for the availability of these pix. Moo told me, modestly, that there are only two people equal to this mission (such is his opinion of those in the LA area, where he presumes Rush is), he and I. Moo, may I add, does not fly!

These could be very important pictures. I think it wouldbe worthwhile were Paul to run Rush through the indixes. I am anxiously looking forward to seeing this film after it is worked up. I have glanced at it in the Movieola, which tells me little. When I consider that the FBI also had it, I have little reason to hope. Yet they do err, as Martin shows. (It is possible the man in that, with the bent arm, may be one Dennis Hovde and the woman one Mary Kells, coming from her having lived with a guy named Kells.) I have not been able to seek either out and I probaby will not be able to this trip because

Sunday night I go to Dallas as the guest of one of the world's wealthiest men! It is now Saturday a.m. There are other things I must do in these less than two days, including following up certain initiatives I have made to "the other side". My plans for Dallas will have to await explanation after I haved left there. I do project a few interviews. However, it is also likely that much of my time will be taken up in conversation. I do not know how long I will stay. I have a round-trip ticket. Matt is also going, on assignment for a British paper whose correspondent is to join us there. Unfortunate.

This trip is actually the outgrowth of a standing invitation to visit with a certain gentleman whenever I was in Dallas. It was elicited by one of my fans, of similar political persuasion.

You may both remember that last November I interviewed Douglas Jones, of the Jones Printing Co., and he said one man of more than usual interest most closely suggested the one who got the literature. Apparently the superior effeciency that prevails here required the reuse of that tape. Today Moo and I went to see him and Myra Silver. I have this tape and will not part with it. They both, independently, picked out the identical pictures, the same man, with both strongly favoring one of that shot I sent to Fred with two side by side. When shown the Oswald arrest picture, Mrs. Silver was certain that, in the full face view, it was not the same man. She said the profile did suggest the man but only slightly. I regard this as significant. Both agreed that the man who was there was not neat.

Please excuse the errors if other things make it impossible for me to read and correct this. Please, also, adhere strictly to the injunction with the film. These people were very kind and helpful to trust me and I intend to keep my word. Best to you all Hal